

**Remarks**

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error and to remove URL citations.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and to more particularly point out features of the invention. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, for example, in original claims 5-6 (target regions) and in the specification at page 8, lines 2-3 (mammalian subject), page 9, lines 18-19 (nonionic or uncharged backbone) and page 6, line 23 (length of at least 12 nucleotides).

Support for independent claim 27 is found at page 11, line 35 to page 12, line 4, and at the locations noted above for claim 1.

Entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. No new matter is added by any of the amendments.

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Respectfully submitted,



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